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Carney comes to the community
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Sweet tarts
Celebrating the story of the tart
on page 5

Bustling Bookapalooza
Preparing for next year's readers and writers
on page 12

Mica looks out over Dark Lake in Wilberforce.
/submitted by Vivien Mausz

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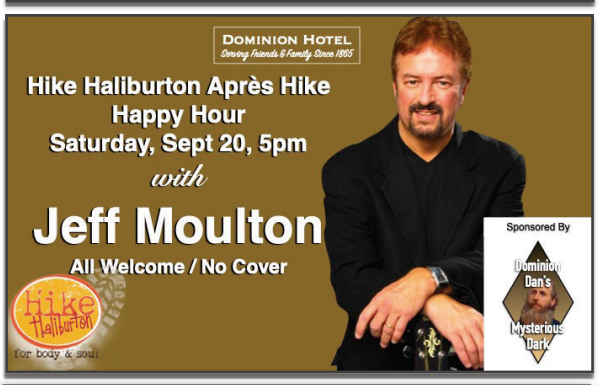

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When the prime minister shows up in Haliburton

WAIT … DID I really just write that title? The prime minister in Haliburton? Running the Haliburton Forest Trail Race? I still can't believe I get to type those words like it's a totally normal Sunday. Spoiler: it's not - and that's exactly why it's worth talking about.

I didn't get to meet him in person, but I'll admit I had a bit of "politics fangirl" excitement just knowing he was here and seeing the photo evidence circulate on Facebook. For someone like me - who grew up in Haliburton, moved back during the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now raising my own family here - it felt like a moment that connected my personal life, my professional life, and my deep roots in this place.

JESSICA SLADE
Plain Talk Politics

For the past ten years, I've worked as a federal public servant. I really do love my job. I'm the type who gets excited about public policy, reads committee reports for fun, and believes in the impact of good governance. That passion is what led me to start Civics with Slade, an online civic education platform designed to help demystify politics and counter polarization and misinformation.

So when the prime minister showed up in town - not on a stage but on the trail - I saw it as more than just a photo-op. I saw a powerful reminder that rural communities matter in the national story.

Why it matters here

If you've been around our riding a while, you know that election results often follow a familiar pattern. That sense of predictability can sometimes lead to lower turnout, or to the feeling that participation doesn't make much of a difference.

But when national leaders visit communities like ours outside of an election season, it sends a different message: that politics is more than votes tallied every few years. It's about being part of something larger, and it's about building trust in places where that trust can feel strained.

Seeing the prime minister at the Trail Race - an event that means a lot to people here - makes politics feel less distant. It turns "Ottawa" into something a little more human, something that can lace up running shoes and hit the same forest trails the rest of us love.

Local democracy is real democracy

That connection matters for the work we're trying to do here through the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project. The goal is simple: create spaces for people to learn about local government, ask questions, and get involved in shaping the future of our county.

Our first session ran on Sept. 16, and there was still a buzz from the prime minister's appearance in our town. Sometimes it takes a spark - a moment that makes people say, "Wow, even the PM cares enough to come here" - to open the door to deeper conversations about what democracy looks like closer to home.

And that's where all of us come in. National politics may grab the headlines, but it's local decisions that shape our roads, our parks, our housing, and our opportunities. When people feel disconnected from government, they tune out. When they feel seen, they lean in.

A personal note

For me, the PMs visit was a reminder of why I came back here. My grandparents, my parents, and now my own kids all call Haliburton home. My husband and I spend plenty of hours commuting to Ottawa for our work, but this is the community where we've chosen to raise our family. And it's the place where I want to keep building bridges between national policy and local life.

Was it a big deal to see the prime minister at the Trail Race? Absolutely. Not because it changes our politics overnight, but because it reminds us that Haliburton County is not invisible on the map of Canada.

Moments like these are a chance to turn secondhand excitement into first-hand participation - whether that's showing up at a council meeting, filling out a survey, or joining us later this month for a conversation about healthy democracy.

Because democracy isn't just something that happens in Ottawa. It's something that happens right here at home, too.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Garden grubs

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

IT WAS a pretty successful summer of growing many more of our own vegetables. Last April, a handy young man drove here with milled cedar and some chicken wire, and within one day he'd screwed together a U-shaped walk-in raised garden complete with latched door. In seven days, the beds were grow-ready. We'd laid down landscape fabric, flat cardboard, sticks, wood chips, pine needles, dead leaves, kitchen compost, wood-stove ashes, local manure and triple mix. At first, everything wanted to live there. It was heartache to pluck out all manner of gorgeous fungi, maple keys and random wind-borne wildflowers. But this supernatural soil was meant to harbour only store-bought seeds.

Our traditional food-garden pests would no longer be deer, foxes, groundhogs, rabbits, skunks, or any ground-burrowing grub-hunting insectivore or tree-climbing rodent. Nothing could get in now! Only birds and bees to help pollinate every precious blossom. One or two slime molds (from desirable organic decomposition) and leaf-chewing insects visited on occasion, but never seriously enough to threaten harvests. When July-August heat and drought began depleting our well, we resorted to rain barrels for watering. And just before those also emptied, the storms finally came.

Talk about things perking up. We've been picking ever since. Snow peas, garden peas, bush beans, potatoes, kale, cucumbers, garlic, romaine, radishes, spinach, celery, green onions, herbs, beets, capsicums. Three tomato varieties. And unlike our neighbours, and despite our tragic Beefsteaks of years past, we got to celebrate this time.

It's all win or lose with growing veg, and not necessarily down to how and what one invests in hopeful gardens. I was slightly sad over others' more meagre results, but simultaneously victorious. I could actually feast on sun-warmed homegrown old-school blemish-free delicious organic fresh-sliced tomatoes, resplendent under thickly-slivered Vidalias, open-faced on lightly-toasted seedy rye, suggestion of mayo, pinches of sea salt, multiple grinds of pepper. The stuff of long ago afternoons. The notable oddness of a little kid truly loving raw onions, noting too that Dad did, and concluding that such was completely normal. Our own castaway island fantasy meal. That paradise of produce on vaguely-crisp German bread. Antithesis to my secret other vice of Cheez Whiz on untoasted white…

Then there's my annoying self-important weirdness of posting an online photo of my lunch. As if to say *aren't we special* … But no. I'm especially proud. That's my first perfect tomato in years. It thrived. It's beautiful. I'm cross-sharing its eminence, plus my gratitude for luck, for faith in life cycles, for awe over natural self-sustenance during a scary-hot, arid, smoky summer. I ignored the obvious fact that time was doing its trickster thing where veg take months to develop, mere seconds to consume, and baskets of farm-bought produce cost just pennies compared to all my packets of high-quality seed.

Anyway. Growing food sparks joy, and is smart on so many levels. Garden grub is the tasty dividend of spring planting. About two dozen tomatoes still redden out there. Slice up the onions!

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Trail cameras revisited

THE OTHER day I bought a new trail camera for this hunting season. A trail cameras is a tool that modern hunters use to determine what animal lingered or slept by their stand when they were not there.

In the old days, every hunter just assumed that every animal in the woods did this. And, based on what I have seen on my trail cameras, we were not that far off.

My issue with trail cameras is not that they tell us things we already know. It is that they record things that most of us probably would rather not have recorded. For instance, you can suck in your belly and show off your best side when you are prepared to pose for someone using their phone or camera. But those set up photos are not the ones you see when you are looking at your trail camera photos.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Typically, when you get caught on a trail camera, it is not the most flattering photo. How bad can it be? Well, I'm fairly certain these photos have a lot to do with the persistence of the Bigfoot myth.

They are that bad.

At the very least, those surprise trail camera photos taken will show your belly hanging over your belt or your plumber's crack. Quite possibly both – and in unflattering light too. Those same photos will also likely show a stupid look on your face that you never knew you had. Your jaw will be slack. Your eyes will be half closed. Whatever bald patch you have will be highlighted. I'm talking about a photo that will verify what your spouse said about your shirt being too small or the need to pass up on seconds at the dinner table.

Basically, it's the opposite of a social media selfie.

I'm guessing that one in ten trail camera photos show an extreme close up of the owner's eye and notable surrounding features, such as unruly nose hair, as he or she stares into the lens to see if its working.

But, you know, this would be no big deal if it ended there.

Alas, it doesn't. Those photos, along with all the deer, grouse, turkey, moose, and bear photos your camera took, are also eventually downloaded onto your computer or phone – and then up into the Cloud. So, the odds are good that one day when one of your ancestors is on a TV-type show getting his or her genealogy revealed, these will be the photos the research team comes up with when they describe the person's great-great-great-great-grandma or pa.

"Are you absolutely certain that's not a Big Foot?" your ancestor will ask.

That will be your legacy.

This is why I think a savvy trail camera company would do well to install facial recognition technology on their products. If they did, we could program our cameras to immediately delete the photos with us in them. Or at least flag them, so we could use AI to fine tune the photo a bit to make you look like you belong on a fitness magazine cover.

It might be dishonest, but I think it will allow us and our ancestors to sleep better at night. You know, night – that same time period when all those animals you never see are lingering near or sleeping beside your trail camera…

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Tarting it up

DEAR READER,

Today, I'd like to start by asking you a question…

What has the circumference of a toonie, okay, two toonies … a buttery crust on the outside, and a filling consisting of custard and/or fruit or even savoury meat in the center? You guessed it! The tart -- today's *Foodie in the Hoodie* featured yummy treat.

JERELYN CRADEN
Foodie in the Hoodie

Now, why focus on the tart? One reason is because I can hardly wait to tell you about a particular tart made right here in Haliburton that I absolutely love. Another – a tart can finish off a meal with delightful flare or be the perfect size mid-day yummy with a cuppa.

As for language associated with the tart – I've always wondered where the following rather demeaning slang comment, "She's such a tart," came from; and the accusatory: "That little tart!" Well, guess what? Originally, the comment was meant as a term of endearment.

Yep. In the 19th century, tart was British slang for "pretty woman." Some believe it was shortened from "sweetheart." But, by the end of that century, tart morphed into meaning a woman who wore too much makeup and looked, well, like a … "lady of the night."

As Shakespeare would say: so much ado about nothing.

Yes, the tart has a rich history dating all the way back to ancient Rome, when it was filled with a variety of meats, fish and vegetables. Over time, sweet versions like the strawberry tart emerged, showcasing the evolution of dessert preferences.

I love this story. In the late 1800s, the Tartin sisters in Lamotte-Beuvron, France, were running a restaurant. The younger sister, Stephanie, who was a capable but sometimes absent-minded cook, forgot about an apple tart in the oven, placing the apples and pastry upside down. In a rush, she flipped the tart and served it, and lo … the now-famous Tarte Tatin was born.

Certain countries are known for a tart specific to their culture. Take Portugal for example. If you try just one local delicacy in Portugal's capital, let it be the revered pastel de nata. These Portuguese custard tarts have become a source of national pride. Their uniquely flaky, savoury pastry has captivated foodies, like me, since they were created in Belem's Jeronimos Monastery in the 1800s. You can even find tasty frozen Portuguese tarts at our local Todd's Independent.

Now, let's look in our own backyard. Butter tarts are an integral part of Central Canadian cuisine and a food of cultural pride in many communities across Ontario and other provinces in central Canada. Consider our tourism: the "Butter Tart Festival" at Muskoka Lakes, Ontario, the trademarked "Butter Tart Trail" at Winnington North, Ontario, and the "Butter Tart Tour" in Kawarthas Northumberland, Ontario. And get this -- the two competing associations have since resolved their dispute, called "The Butter Tart Wars" by *Canadian Living*, through the mutual agreement to modify, "The Butter Tart Tour" to "Kawarthas Northumberland Butter Tart Tour".

Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival and Contest is an annual event held in Midland, Ontario. It attracts bakers from across Ontario and is the largest butter tart-themed celebration.

As for the earliest published butter tart recipe in Canada. It's from Barrie, Ontario, dates back to 1900, and can be found in *The Women's Auxiliary of the Royal Victoria Hospital Cookbook*. A chef by the name of Mrs. Mary Ethel MacLeod submitted the recipe for a butter tart filling. And if you'd like to see it – the original cookbook and recipe is housed at the Simcoe County Archives.

The four main types of tarts are: fruit tarts, custard tarts, chocolate tarts, and savoury tarts. Fruit tarts are typically filled with fresh fruits and a sweet glaze. Custard tarts feature a creamy custard filling like lemon or milk tarts. (My mouth is watering as I write this). Chocolate tarts offer a rich chocolate filling. And savoury tarts, such as quiches, use ingredients like vegetables, cheese, and sometimes meat.

Okay, it's time to let my personal favourite tart out of the bag, realizing of course that I'll be risking it being sold out before I can get to the bakery to buy some. But, here goes. Drum roll please.

Your Foodie in the Hoodie's all-time favourite dessert tart is – the lemon tart at The Little Tart bakery in Gelert, Ontario, at 1035 Koshlong Lake Road (off of Gelert Rd). Sooo lemony, so light, and deliciously gooey, and oh the pastry is flaky delish. Thank you, Teresa, for getting up at the crack of dawn to make all of your tarts (a huge variety) fresh and heavenly, and Bill for being the most delightful meeter/greeter and hard-working partner.

In their own words: "Here at The Little Tart, all of our baked goods are created from scratch and made by hand fresh daily the way home baking should be. We take pride in everything we do from our baking to our friendly and courteous customer service. All of our recipes are tried and retried until they are our absolute best." The Little Tart has been making mouths water since 2009. Fall hours: Saturday/Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Until next time, Dear Reader, remember to savour every moment – that way, everything you eat will taste a whole lot better!

Jerelyn Craden is a writer, singer, artist, and self-proclaimed foodie.

Based in Haliburton, she loves sharing information that moves one's happy meter to "high."

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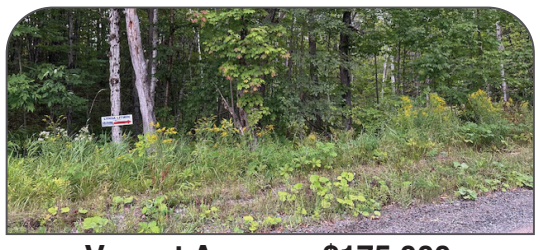

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Dog days

I HAD A nice chat with one of our contributors this past week about our dogs. She had submitted a photo of her beloved companion, and it opened up the floodgates of memory lane, reminiscing on the pups we have now, and the ones who have walked before us.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

I myself have two dogs, both rescues. With their colourful but uncertain pasts, they come with their own sets of quirks. And they could not be more different. With only a few months between them, Tilley is a spritely border collie mix (we think) and spends her days running laps of the house, the lawn, the lake, the dog park, the living room, the kitchen, the cottage. Anywhere and everywhere, Tilley is full-tilt.

Daisy, on the other hand, is a rottweiler mix (we think) and she prefers to spend her days lounged by the fire, lounged on the couch, lounged on the bed, lounged on the lawn, lounged at the dog park. Anywhere and everywhere, Daisy is usually horizontal.

You never know what you're going to get with rescue pups. And there's beauty in that.

Before these gals, there was a pup named Baxter. Bax came as a plus-one when I paired up with my husband.

And as much as I love my husband, I think Baxter was my soul mate. We bonded instantly. We trekked together around the Minden River Walk, every morning and night. We made meals together and danced in the kitchen and hiked every trail we could find.

Baxter loved cozy afternoons watching old movies on the couch just as much as he loved chomping fresh snowflakes from the sky on a cold winter's night.

He went everywhere with me. My office, events, social gatherings. As a lab/Newfie mix, he was a gentle giant, and loved everything and everyone he met.

He loyally slept on my feet each night, and when his achy joints became too worn down with age and play, we would carry him up the stairs so he was never alone.

The end of his life came quickly, but we took solace in knowing he wasn't in pain.

We couldn't say the same for us. Here we are, years later, and at every event, we think of Baxter. Every holiday, we think of Baxter. Every time we cook bacon, we think of Baxter.

And while Tilley and Daisy have forged space into our hearts and filled love into cracks and crevices we didn't even know existed, there will always be a Baxter-shaped hole in there.

But isn't that beautiful.

These companions we make. The ones who don't speak the same language, but understand every emotion, every feeling, every thought we have just with their eyes. The ones who are an entirely different species, but connect with an unwavering love in their hearts. The ones who walk on four legs instead of two, but look at us like their worlds revolve around our bond. They live to feel our connection, to share in our joy, to sit in our sadness.

What a complete blessing that is.

While this sounds ideal, I will always preach that you must be in a position to support that connection. A dog is not a toy; it's a living, breathing creature. It will require time, energy, money, space, and compassion. If you are not in a place to offer any of those, then it's not the right time for a furry friend.

But if you are, please consider adopting a rescue. Snowflake Meadows is desperately seeking fosters and suitable rescue families. You can add joy to your life in the most meaningful way.

So here is to our dogs. Our companions, our best friends. The ones we share noodles with in our pajamas and cry into their collars on a particularly bad day. The ones who keep our feet warm at the small cost of not moving for the entire duration of the night. The ones who give us one look to remind us that we're not alone. We don't deserve dogs. The unwavering love they give, the unrelenting joy they bring.

And above all, here is to Tilley, to Daisy, and of course, to Baxter.

Top 10 reasons Trump was never an FBI informant

LAST WEEK, Trump supporters floated the idea that he was an F.B.I. informant on human trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. Cynical people would suggest that this was a lie meant to cushion him when the Epstein client list is finally revealed. I happen to think this is impossible for a variety of other reasons. Here are the top reasons why I think Trump could never be an F.B.I informant.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. He'd get arrested for boasting about much better he was at doing all those illegal things.
2. Would keep asking people to "Speak into the mic."
3. He has never once been informed.
4. He would quit the minute he found out that FBI does not stand for "Female Body Inspector."
5. He couldn't bring himself to inform on himself.
6. Nobody would believe him.
7. Bone spurs
8. His KGB handlers would have forbidden it.
9. It was either that or be a secret member of Seal Team Six. He couldn't do both.
10. All those wires would have interfered with his golf swing.

Grasshopper

Green leaf curling into itself on a slab of concrete,
a fleet of feet sweeping past it, a small miracle that nobody tramples it,
the slimmest of leaves, rolled up so tight, far from the nearest tree, I bend down to scoop it up
from the sidewalk,
the green leaf unfurling itself, sprouting legs and hopping away, my eyes widening in wonder
at what they see,
a grasshopper leaping over the cracks in the sidewalk, over weeds, tall as trees,
wondering how it found itself here, among this flurry of feet and this concrete terrain,
away from its domain of grass and trees, sealing itself in stillness in the middle of the sidewalk,
'till I crouched down to disturb it, losing sight of the grasshopper as soon as it leaps onto the street,
having to navigate its crossing between moving cars and blaring horns, how loud the sound must be,
vibrating through the grasshopper's whole body, when it's accustomed to the silence of grass
and breeze breathing in the trees, birdsong trickling through Air and a chorus of crickets lulling it to sleep
as it nestles between blades of grass, the cacophony of the street must jangle the grasshopper,
like it does me, sometimes,
seeking the peace of the trail, wondering whether the grasshopper got lost this morning, as it began its day,
leaping over pebbles and stones and thatches of grass, passing ants and other insects along the way,
covering so much terrain in a few leaps that would take a caterpillar half a day,
wondering whether the grasshopper detoured on its journey on purpose or by accident,
the landscape, growing more sparse, the trees, thinner and scragglier, grass, smothered by concrete,
as the trail is swallowed by a street, sidewalks overflowing with rivers of feet,
it's a wonder the grasshopper doesn't get swept away, remaining still, instead,
camouflaging itself as a leaf, in the middle of a crowd, the loudness, assailing my senses,
sometimes, as I cross the street,
swept up in the flurry of feet scurrying to get to the other side,
peering down a side street where shrubs and trees spring from front lawns,
sunflowers towering over other flowers, leaving room for them to bloom,
the grasshopper, out there, somewhere, leaping its way back to where it belongs,
toward the terrain of grass and weeds and bushes and trees, the trail, a sanctuary of green,
for the roaming grasshopper that disguised itself as a leaf, to protect itself from the sea of feet, rushing to get
somewhere,
wishing I could remain as still as the grasshopper in the middle of a crowd,
muffle the loudness 'till it becomes silent as the clouds floating above me, or the yellow leaf
swirling through Air,
landing on the ground, barely making a sound.

Sylvie Kalenda

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PRENTICE STREET MINDEN $525,000

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Broker
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lisa@lisamercer.ca

53 HARMONY RD $834,000

Stunning 4 Bedroom, 3 Bathroom Raised Bungalow! Open Concept Design with Custom Kitchen, Livingroom, Diningroom, Main Fl Master with Ensuite, Family Rm with Walkout to Pool & HotTub Large Private Rear Yard. Oversized Attached Garage with Workshop! Walking distance to downtown Haliburton.

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Sales Representatives

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- Landscaped yard w/armour stone and perennial gardens throughout
- Detached double Car Garage

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705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

PEACE & TRANQUILITY ON QUIET FARQUHAR LAKE!

- 4 season executive home
- 3 BR/2 bath, finished basement
- Open concept layout
- 2 w/os to large deck & hot tub
- Gently terraced lot; armor stone landscaped
- 175 + ft water frontage
- 2-car garage + 1-car garage
- Smart home, monitor while your away
- Fully furnished

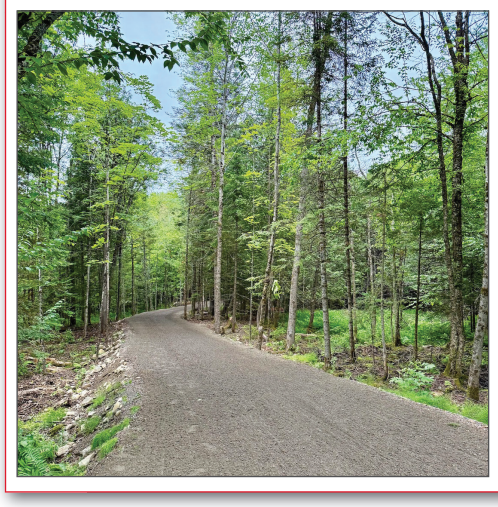
Sue Sotiriou
Sales Representative
905-715-4569
sue-sotiriou.remax.ca

2166 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD $529,000

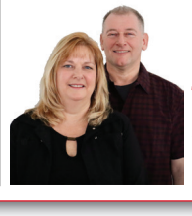
1100 SQ. ft. 3 bedroom bungalow sits on private 5.5 acre lot in peaceville Blairhampton - cozy country kitchen and dining area - 4pc bath - new septic 2018 - full w/o basement unfinished - FA propane - 26' x 40' 2 storey garage - fully insulated - 2nd floor wide open and carpeted - FA propane heating

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

TOM BOLTON ROAD - VACANT LOT $164,900



- Ideal Location To Build Your Dream Home or Getaway!
- Private, well-treed, 4.88-acre parcel.
- Cedar buffer which opens up to a mature mixed hardwood bush.
- Driveway installed, situated on year-round municipal road.
- Centrally located between Haliburton and Minden and just 5 minutes from the Public Boat Launch on Lake Kashagawigamog.



Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www. kenbarry.com
Out Standing In Our Field

37 ACRE HOMESTEAD $999,000

This 3 bedroom, home offers a large livingroom,an open-concept kitchen/dining area with a large deck. A 28'x60' detached garage has storage in the front, walls started for a full 3 bdrm, 1 bath apartment in the back, plus in-floor heating. Property is partially covered under a Forest Management System for reduced taxes. 2 tiny homes on foundations, large shelter, greenhouse, woodshed, Russian sauna and more.

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
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MovingTheHighlands.com

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- 3 bedrooms/2 baths
- Detached + Attached Garages
- 2,259 sqft finished living space
- Huge covered veranda
- Level lot - 1.93 acres
- Lots of upgrades

scan to view the listing!

VINCE **DUCHENE**

HIGHLAND GROVE $339,900

- 4 bed/1 bath home on 4.26 acs
- 2 bdrms & 4pc bath on main floor
- Spacious country charm; w/mud rm
- Room for main flr laundry or pantry
- FA propane furnace & dug well
- Mostly level lot & ample parking
- Mini barn, workshop & drive shed
- Needs some TLC; being sold As-Is
- Accessed by yr-rnd Municipal road

Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

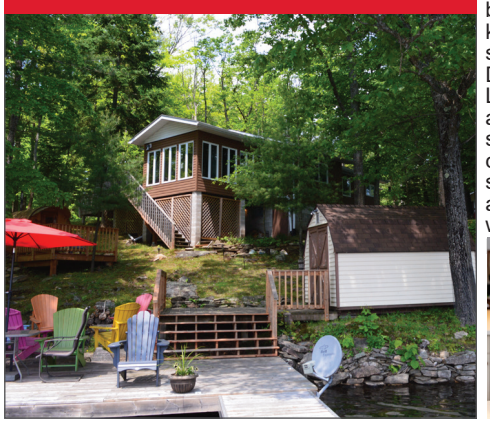
7 STOUFFER ST

Charming and fully renovated 2 Bedroom home (2024 updates)
Main floor living, new vinyl flooring throughout
New 5 piece bathroom
Includes 2024 SS kitchen appliances
Attached 2 Car Garage
Municipal water and sewers
Private yard with treed border
MOVE IN READY & minutes from downtown Minden

Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

KUSHOG LAKE $809,000

OPEN HOUSE SEPT. 27 9-11



Spotless 4-season cottage, insulated guest cabin. 3-season sunroom w/cathedral beamed ceilings. Modern pine ceiling kitchen w/ skylight, living room w/wood stove & lg master bdrm. 124 ft of frontage. Deep water off dock's end,& walk-in entry. Lakeside deck & dock system, & firepit area and 4-person wood-fired barrel sauna! Solid concrete block foundation w/ crawl space, lake water w/ heated line, UV system, lg rear deck, low maintenance yard and building. new windows, exterior door, washer/dryer (2023+/-). New mudroom.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

GULL RIVER CLOSE TO MINDEN $565,000

- Boat to Gull Lake
- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathroom,
- 2 Living Spaces,
- Updated Kitchen
- Quiet spot on the River

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

137 SOMERVILLE 11TH CONCESSION $895,000

- Beautiful 4 season, turnkey family home built in 2002
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Main floor laundry
- 104 acres with a great trail system
- Attached double car garage with access into house
- Unfinished basement with 10ft ceilings
- Covered front veranda
- Private and surrounded by nature

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

ColourFest

Free family fun in Head Lake Park!
Head Lake Park, Haliburton
Saturday, September 20, 2025
11 AM to 3 PM

Face Painting
Mask Creation
Haliburton Highlands Museum
Inflatable Games
Games
Activities
Local Groups & Businesses
Local Vendor Market

FREE

Pumpkin Rolling Contest
Rotary Club of Haliburton
11AM - 2:15PM: Register & pick your free pumpkin
2:30PM: Rolling contest starts on York St

Petting Zoo
Critter Visits of Woolley Wonderland Farm
Plein Air
Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre
Craft
Haliburton County Public Library
Classic Car Show
Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers

Municipality of Dysart et al
www.dysartetal.ca/colourfest

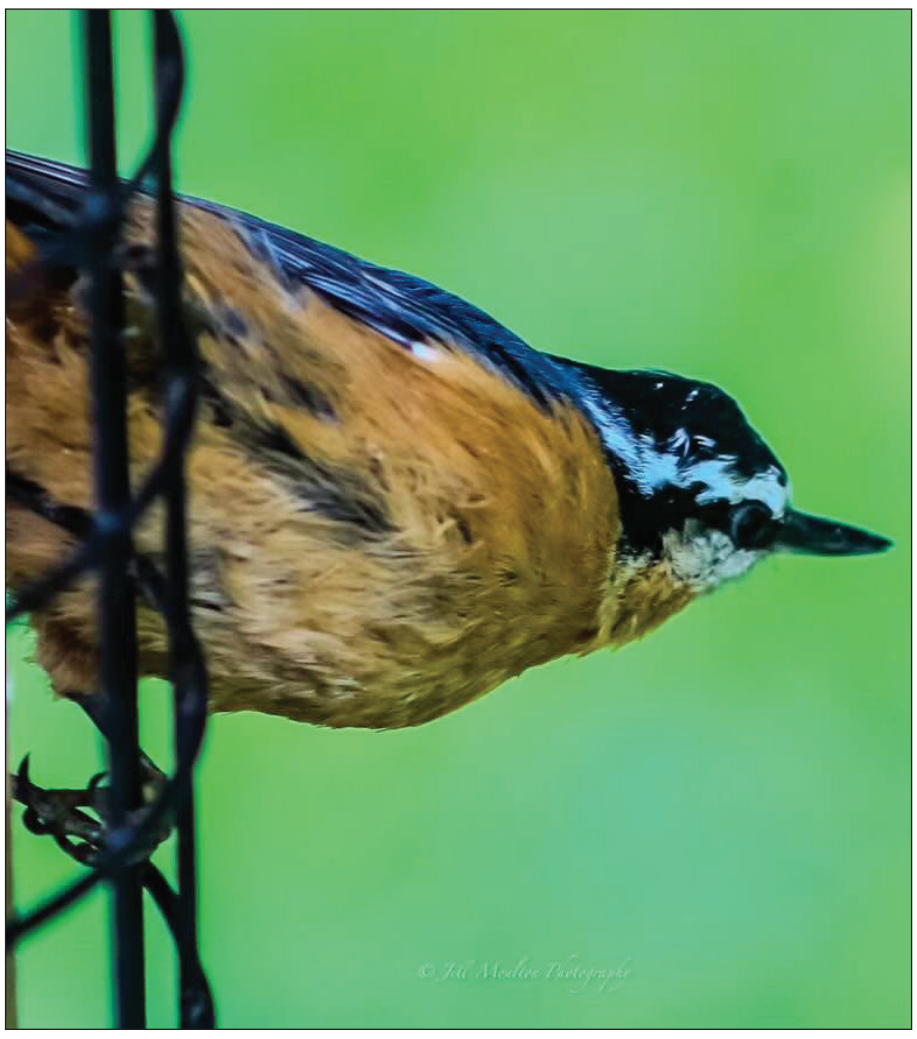
Thank you Haliburton Solar and Wind for donating time to block off the street for the pumpkin roll!

Haliburton Solar+Wind

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Lunch by Randy Moratz



Red Breasted Nuthatch by Jill Moulton

2025 BANCROFT & AREA
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STUDIO TOUR
SEPTEMBER 20–21 + 27–28 • 10 am to 5 pm
Enjoy the rugged landscape and spectacular autumn colours while driving to visit the artists in their studios on this free, self-guided tour.
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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Baby squirrel by Debi Ireland

Beaver by Tammy Nash

Monarch by Debi Ireland

Wet raccoon by Randy Moratz

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Needle Felting Workshop

When: Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves-perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Cricut 101 Workshop

When: Thursday, Sept. 18 from 1 to 2:30 pm.
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
Learn the steps required to design, cut, slice and score to get the most out of the cutting machine! This free, beginner-friendly workshop will guide you through the basics of using the Cricut machine and its software Design Space. All materials provided. Please bring a water bottle, cup or fabric swatch to apply the vinyl to.

Creative Craft Session

When: Friday, Sept. 19 from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Wilberforce Library
A creative craft session designed for adults! Using simple materials like pipe cleaners, beads, and floral tape, you'll learn how to twist and shape vibrant pipe cleaner flowers. All materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Sticker Making Workshop

When: Saturday, Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Get creative and unleash your inner artist. This hands-on workshop will teach you how to design and create custom stickers using the Cricut cutting machine. Make your own unique stickers to use, share, or gift! All materials will be provided. Program for children, ages 5+.

Loonie Auction

When: Sept. 20, 7 p.m.m
Where: Coboconk Legion -Open to all
To support The Purchase of a Back up Generator. Donations graciously accepted including a Cottage Table for gently used items. Doors 5:30 Hotdogs available. Bring your Loonies and Toonies. Call 705-454-8127 to donate or ask questions

Haliburton Curling Club at Colourfest

When: Saturday, Sept. 20, 11a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Head Lake Park
The Haliburton Curling Club will be hosting a free "Street Curling" event at Colourfest. Come on down to Head Lake Park between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to try your hand at this fun, interactive "iceless" curling game, win prizes, and check out the selfie booth.

Annual Fall Fundraiser for Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre

When: Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.
Where: Lakeside Church, Haliburton
Free Admission. An offering will be taken. "Rhythm and Grace" (the Duketow) family will be providing a Celtic Gospel Concert. This is an event for the whole family. For more information: text or call 705-457-4673

Create a Fun Craft

When: Thursday, Sept. 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
All ages are welcome to create a fun craft. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver. No registration required.

One-on-One Tech Help Session

When: Thursday, Sept. 25
Where: Minden Hills Library
Stuck on a tech problem? Need help navigating new software, setting up your devices, or troubleshooting an issue? Register for a 30-minute One-on-One Tech Help Session. Our tech expert will work with you individually to solve your tech challenges. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Cricut 101 Workshop

When: Friday, Sept. 26 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Learn the steps required to design, cut, slice and score to get the most out of the cutting machine! This free, beginner-friendly workshop will guide you through the basics of using the Cricut machine and its software Design Space. All materials provided. Please bring a water bottle, cup or fabric swatch to apply the vinyl to.

Needle Felting Workshop

When: Friday, Sept. 26
Where: Dorset Library
Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves-perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Bookapalooza committee seeks new members

JANET TRULL
Special to County Life

Bookapalooza is a Haliburton County event where booklovers gather in great numbers to celebrate our passion for reading and writing.

Books have been my good friends since childhood. They were like roadmaps to understanding the world. My quiet rural community was home to a hierarchy of professionals, merchants, factory workers and farmers. There were indigent men who lived in the rooms above the hotel. Down at the lowest rung of the ladder were the folks who lived in "Slabtown," a collection of rickety shelters along the river. No one talked about social justice. School curriculum focused on explorers, conquerors and colonialists. Good spellers were rewarded. Stutterers and kids with cooties were humiliated. Quiet observers like me had a sense that things weren't always fair, but questions weren't encouraged.

The library is where I met the girls who helped me figure things out. Most of them were motherless waifs, but that's why I loved them. They struggled. They messed up even though they tried to be good. They were not the prettiest, smartest, or richest. Most importantly, they were honest. I learned more about the "painful inconvenience" of menstruation from Anne Frank than I did from the booklet my mother left on my bedside table. Anne Shirley's imagination and wonder of nature helped me notice the beauty in my own backyard. Scout Finch's relationship with Boo Radley taught me a lesson on empathy that was missing from my playground.

Haliburton County readers and writers value books more than most. The winters are long and there is nothing more satisfying than a stack of books by your favourite chair when the cold winds blow. The Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands (ACHH) has been encouraged by the increasing interest and participation in Bookapalooza, its annual festival for readers and writers.

The Bookapalooza 2026 committee has already started work on next summer's festival. The exhibit hall will once again be humming with the energy of authors, keen to discuss their books. From romances and murder mysteries to biographies and memoirs, all genres are well-represented. The highlight of the day is the Big Book Club, when a guest author reveals the secrets of writing a good story.

If you are a booklover who would like to support literary arts in the Highlands, please express your interest through email to bookapalooza.hh@gmail.com. The current Bookapalooza team is comprised of hard-working, book-loving members who would welcome your help as we build upon past successes for 2026. So many books. So little time.

Home Hardware Building Centre - Artist of the Month
Dzintra Schlotter

Presenting our September Artist Feature, Dzintra Schlotter! Dzintra has put up a lovely display of her hand painted artwork. These will be in store for the month of September.

Colour featured: French Pear

"I have been painting in Haliburton for many years. It is such a beautiful and inspiring environment. I prefer to focus my work on landscapes, floral, and wildlife of the area. Over the years, I have had numerous opportunities to exhibit my work in the GTA, Muskoka and Haliburton. Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden hosted a few of my exhibitions, as did The Rails End Gallery.

As a permanent resident of Haliburton, it is a pleasure to be a part of the vibrant arts and cultural community."

Submitted

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays: Sept. 22, 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Sept. 23 Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Tickets are $20 each. Veterans and their Spouse are free. Cocktails Start at 5 p.m. Dinner to follow.
Wednesdays: Sept. 17, 24 Darts $4/player 2 p.m., Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cribbage League 6:30 p.m. – Sign up at the Legion
Thursdays: Sept. 18, 25
Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Sept. 25 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays: Sept. 19 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Sept. 26 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon, Wings and Jam Session $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 Board Games 2 p.m., Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Sept. 20 Open Mic 2 to 6 p.m. $1 each
Sept. 28 Nacho Average Trivia Night 7 p.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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1998 Polaris INDY XLT touring snowmobile, only 461 miles, looks and maintained as new by original retired owner, stored inside except for Christmas/New Years use, liquid cooled 597cc triple, XTRA 12' suspension front, 12.8 rear, all heated grips, composite skis, electric start, reverse , 280 watt alternator, 75 watt halogen headlights, and more, modern look plus great trail machine for 2 up. Location Eagle Lake. Asking Price $4,250. Contact **905-294-1333**

Like New Reclining Wheelchair For Sale. Original price was $5,000, asking $2,000. Only used for two months. Contact **705-754-2518** or **705-457-0106**

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4 Firestone All Season Tires For Sale. 17" 225/65R17 on GMC Alloy Rims. In very good condition. Photo Available. $500. Call **705-457-7016**

Antique auto for sale. **1972 Buick Electra 225**; 2 dr. hardtop; red and white; all original, 53000 miles. Imported from Hershey PA area about 35 years ago. Excellent chrome, floors, body. Some rust around rear window only. Asking $4500.00. Contact Steve at **705-489-3906**

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- Ensure cleanliness of shop.
- Park and arrange vehicles to maximize lot efficiency and space.
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- Ability to drive both manual and automatic transmission.
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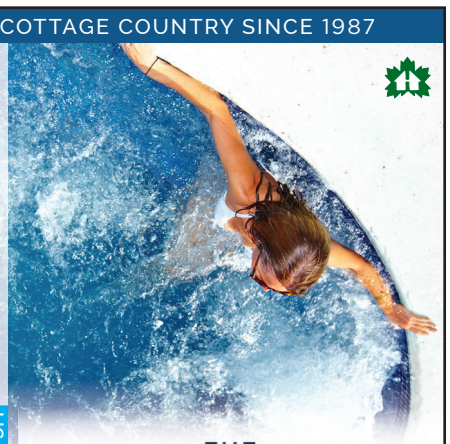

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Kinmount Fair a feast of sights, sounds

From steam engines to prize winning pies, there was a little bit of everything

Finishing fourth

When it comes to simple pleasures, there are few things that can match the atmosphere of a country fair. Whether it's the sight of eight huge Belgian horses hitched to a brightly painted wagon, the cacaphony of the midway, the pungent smell of freshly cut hay or the hiss and thump of a steam engine, a country fair is a place to heighten the senses and quicken the mind. And when it comes to providing these things in abundance, there are few country fairs that can claim to be better than the one held in Kinmount over the weekend.

Horse, cattle and sheep competitions drew entrants from a wide area. Rides, games, contests, a demolition derby, entertainment, an amateur contest, food of many kinds, handicrafts, baking, flower and vegetable displays, antique cars, old pumps and engines, a parade, a dance and scores of other attractions drew thousands to the fairgrounds on both days.

More than 1000 ribbons and prizes were handed out to winners and runners-up in competitions that test everything from baking and flower arranging skills to cattle breeding and horse drawing.

More than 1400 entries were shown in the display hall

Some 1400 entries were received for the 400 classes exhibited in the display hall.

Winner of the prize for the best pieced cotton quilt was Dorothy Hodgson of Burnt River. The best reversible quilt was made by Beatrice Taylor of Minden, who had more than 120 entries in this year's fair.

In the afghan classes, Edith Hughes of Burnt River and Grace McPherson of Kinmount took first prizes.

The best loaf of bread entered in this year's fair was baked by Erin Perry of Kinmount. The best chocolate cake was made by Tracy Dettman, also of Kinmount. Winner of the prize for the best apple pie was Marjorie Coulter of Minden. Zeta Byrne of Fenelon Falls had the best butter tarts.

The award for the best display of baking went to Beatrice Taylor of Minden.

In the T.V. supper category, Mary Hartin of Kinmount took the red ribbon. She had more than 130 entries overall.

Norma Handley of Burnt River was the winner of the prize for the best bran muffins, while Tracy Dettman of Kinmount added another ribbon to her collection for the best orange cake.

Jean Dolan of Fenelon Falls had the best chocolate chip cookies, while Grace McPherson of Kinmount took the prize for the best date loaf.

Norma Handley of Burnt River added to her collection of honours with a first place in the tea biscuit competition, and Erin Perry did the same with her peanut butter cookies.

Mary Hartin of Kinmount also picked up a first place ribbon for her tray of six buns.

In the pickled beets category, the winner was Erin Perry of Kinmount. The best canned tomatoes were those of Fran Davis, Kinmount.

In the vegetable classes, Mary Hartin was judged to have the best display, while Margaret Fischer of Kinmount had the best 11 quart basket of potatoes.

Winner of the prize for the best six red tomatoes was Art Reid of Fenelon Falls.

Jeff Lettner of Kinmount took first prize for two white cabbages, while John Hickey, also of Kinmount, took top honours for three large potatoes. Penny Hartin of Kinmount had the best six cucumbers.

In the flower competitions, Beatrice Taylor of Minden took top honours for her display of cut flowers. Fran Harris of Kinmount had the best cactus garden, while Penny Harris had the best asters.

In the sweepes category, Michelle Barkwell of Kinmount was the winner.

The most unusual plant was entered by Larry

More pictures on page 3

A wild ride

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

"The voice of the Highlands"

Vol. 99 No. 3 Wednesday, September 3, 1980 14 pages 25 cents

Bus line unhappy with board offer, will meet Tuesday

by Sue Cooper

NorthernWays bus line is not satisfied with an offer the Haliburton County Board of Education has made to area bus owners for the 1980-81 school year.

Scott LaRue, part owner of NorthernWays said Tuesday, bus operators had only met with the transportation committee in preliminary discussions before the August board meeting at which the offer was presented.

The board approved the offer giving the bus owners a 10 percent increase for the school year, a gasoline price escalator clause and the guarantee payments would not be reduced for two years if a smaller bus was required because of declining enrolment.

At the meeting, transportation chairman Leroy Eager told the board the 10 percent increase had been included in the board's budget. The gasoline escalator clause stipulated when the lowest publicly available price for gasoline in Haliburton Village exceeds 27.3 cents per litre by 5/10ths of a cent per litre or more, the board will pay an extra allowance of 2/10ths or a cent per kilometre for each increase and will also deduct accordingly for each decrease.

Last year, the board paid $525,088 for 38 buses which covered 2,769 miles each school day. This year the new offer will up the cost to $577,597 for the same mileage.

LaRue said NorthernWays was not satisfied with the offer and wrote the board requesting another meeting to discuss the matter.

Director of Education, J. Douglas Hodgson said Tuesday the matter is still open for negotation.

Transportation committee chairman Leroy Eager said the committee is "not at a point where we're not going to move under any circumstances." He indicated, however, that no complaints about the offer have been received from other area bus operators. The letter from NorthernWays indicated that there were "a few points that needed clarification, but there was no indication that they were unhappy."

NorthernWays apparently is not satisfied with the wording of the gasoline escalator clause and the percentage increase the board offered is less than NorthernWays requested, LaRue said.

Because there was not a gasoline escalator clause in the last agreement with the board, LaRue said NorthernWays was hurt by the large increase in gasoline prices over the year.

NorthernWays has 27 contracts with the board and

Reconstruction nears completion, paving begins

The construction of Highway 519 through the village of Haliburton is expected to be completed within three weeks, according to the project supervisor.

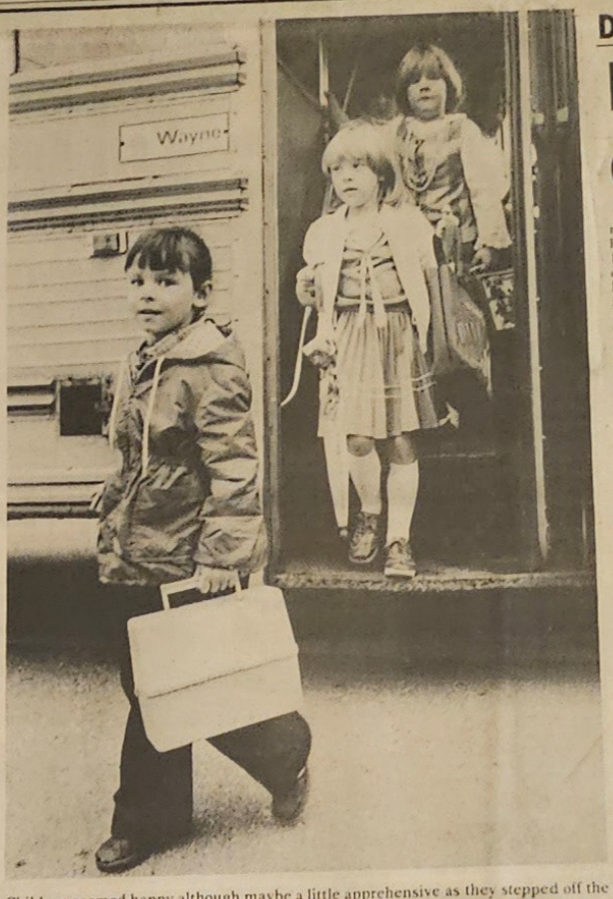
Paving was expected to begin on Tuesday, Murray Kuno said Monday.

Although the rate of progress will depend mainly on the weather, Kuno said he thought the workers would have the job done by the first week in October at the latest.

Other than the paving and trimming, only sodding and general clean-up duties need to be completed before the project ends.

Kuno said the project was on schedule and the contract would be ending when the paving was completed.

Construction began in early summer with the entire main street of Haliburton being torn up and new curbs, sidewalks and gutters being installed. Highway 519 was reconstructed beyond the village limits and new supports were put in Wallings Bridge



Children seemed happy although maybe a little apprehensive as they stepped off the buses at Victoria Street School in Haliburton. Classes began on Tuesday.

Information expected to be helpful in quest for industry

Students complete profile for EDC

With the assistance of four students, the Haliburton County Economic Development Commission has completed a community profile on all the individual municipalities as well as the county.

Bob Stinson, secretary of the EDC and manager of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said the new information will be quite helpful to both operations.

Employment Program (OYEP) the students gathered information in the municipalities form the municipal offices, businesses, and libraries, Stinson said.

This information, which has been compiled into books will be used to answer questions from prospective businesses who might be thinking of locating in the area.

The EDC will now have the answers to such questions as how much the tax rates are, the cost of hydro, what zoning pertains to certain areas and the distance to villages in the county.

Having this information at their fingertips will be quite convenient for both the Chamber and the EDC, Stinson said.

While the lack of having this information hasn't been a serious problem in the past,

Cont'd page 2

Direct polluters ordered to carry out immediate repairs

Environment ministry finds defective sewage systems

A Ministry of the Environment sponsored cottage pollution survey has discovered 10 sewage disposal systems causing direct pollution of Lake Kashagawigamog and nine polluting Esson Lake. An additional 252 systems on the lakes have been classified "seriously substandard." Some 21 systems on Miskwabi Lake were also found to be substandard but no systems were classified as direct polluters.

The information is contained in a recent report from the ministry's Gravenhurst office detailing findings of a survey completed last summer.

A total of 533 sewage disposal systems on the north basin of Lake Kashagawigamog were inspected and 210 or 39 percent were classified as seriously substandard. Such systems are not causing pollution at the time of inspection, but do not meet current standards of design, construction or location, and are deemed to represent "a potential hazard" to water quality. A further 78 or 14 percent were discharging wash water onto the ground either directly or through a seepage pit, while 12, or 2.3 percent allowed faecal or urinary discharges to be exposed on the surface of the ground. Ten, or 1.9 percent of the systems inspected were found to be direct polluters. A further 158 systems were temporarily unclassified and awaiting a detailed inspection.

As of December 31, 1979, 140 systems had been corrected, and a further 10 property owners had signed agreements to have work completed during the construction season this year. The remainder were notified by letter of the problems with their systems and the corrective action required.

On Esson Lake in Monmouth Township, 117 systems were inspected, and 42 or 36 percent were found to be seriously substandard. A further 28, or 23.9 percent were discharging wash water onto the ground, and seven, or six percent were discharging faecal or urinary waste. Nine systems were found to be directly polluting the lake.

As of December 31, 1979, 44 faulty systems had been corrected and five owners had signed agreements to have work completed this year.

A total of 78 systems were inspected on Miskwabi Lake, and 21 of them, or 27 percent were classified seriously substandard. Twenty-four systems were discharging wash water onto the ground, and one was discharging faecal or urinary waste. No systems were found to be direct polluters.

Corrective work had been carried out on 26 of the faulty systems by December 31, 1979, and a further four owners had signed agreements for repairs this year.

Owners causing direct pollution are compelled to take corrective action immediately while others are asked to sign a document outlining a system's defects and the corrective work to be carried out by a specific date.

If an owner refuses to comply with a correction program, the ministry will take legal action, according to the report.

Creative play area to be in place this fall

Head Lake Park takes shape

Development in the Head Lake Park in Haliburton Village will be shaping up considerably in the next few weeks as workers try to complete the work slated for this year.

Up to this point, the men working on the project have been busy planting trees, building a huge stone waterfall and landscaping the new park area, project supervisor Ian Douglas said Monday.

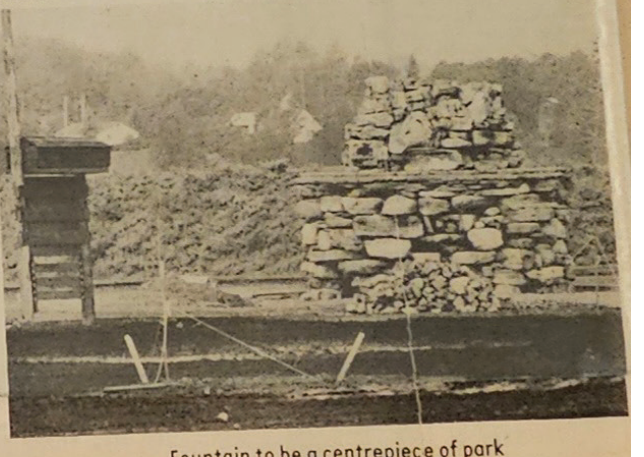
Within the next two to three weeks construction will begin on a creative play area for children, cosmetic stonework on the waterfall may begin, more trees will be planted and a foot bridge will be built.

The creative play area will be condensed into a 63 by 40 foot space, Douglas said. In this area, children will be able to enjoy tube slides, several climbers, balancing cable, tire swings, platforms, an open playhouse, baby, youngster and senior swings as well as a rope net.

This area will be located approximately in the middle of the field, Douglas said. He said an effort had been made to keep the smaller children's area apart from the older children's area to avoid the normal confrontations.

The play area has been ordered with a delivery date of about three weeks. Douglas said a supervisor from the supplying company will arrive with the material and will help construct the play area, a

Cont'd page 2



Fountain to be a centrepiece of park

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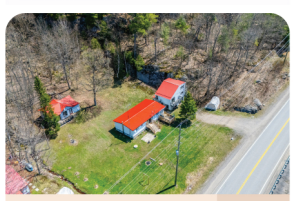

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